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THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH COMPARED.

COMPARISONS, BY COLOR, OF THE DEATH RATES PER 100,000 PERSONS EXPOSED FOR THE SECOND QUARTERS AND THE FIRST HALF-YEARS OF 1918, 1919, AND 1920.

The accompanying tables, together with the analysis, are furnished by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., being the mortality records of the industrial department of that company for the periods covered. The figures are based on a strength of approximately 13,000,000.

In using the rates given in these tables it should be borne in mind that they apply to a selected group, and that while they are comparable with other rates within the group and give comparative health conditions of the periods covered, the rates themselves can not be compared with rates for the country at large.

Death rates per 100,000 persons exposed. Second quarters of 1918, 1919, and 1920 compared, by color, for principal causes of death.

[Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Industrial Department.]

Causes of death.	Death rates per 100,000 persons exposed.					
	White.			Colored.		
	Apr.-June, 1920.	Apr.-June, 1919.	Apr.-June, 1918.	Apr.-June, 1920.	Apr.-June, 1919.	Apr.-June, 1918.
All causes of death.....	895.6	937.3	1,071.8	1,492.9	1,567.7	1,954.6
Typhoid fever.....	4.0	4.3	6.3	6.9	13.0	16.8
Measles.....	14.2	6.6	16.7	7.2	4.1	12.1
Scarlet fever.....	7.0	4.8	5.3	1.0	.3	1.8
Whooping cough.....	6.4	2.7	10.1	10.0	1.4	20.4
Diphtheria and croup.....	19.2	17.3	18.1	5.6	5.8	7.7
Influenza.....	29.4	58.9	15.2	71.0	106.4	43.4
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	131.2	142.7	178.9	319.9	348.3	449.6
Tuberculosis of the lungs.....	117.8	128.4	150.7	291.7	313.8	401.2
Tuberculous meningitis.....	6.7	7.8	10.9	8.5	13.5	13.9
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	6.6	6.5	8.3	19.7	21.0	34.6
Meningitis—total.....	6.6	8.0	10.8	10.0	6.1	10.6
Cerebrospinal meningitis.....	5.6	6.1	6.8	7.9	5.5	7.1
Cerebral hemorrhage—apoplexy.....	57.4	53.7	58.6	89.2	89.5	87.2
Organic diseases of heart.....	111.3	105.4	128.6	180.0	173.5	223.6
Total respiratory diseases.....	105.8	115.3	162.4	166.1	211.6	358.1
Bronchitis.....	8.6	8.3	9.6	9.7	11.9	17.7
Broncho-pneumonia.....	32.1	34.8	35.9	35.9	45.0	61.5
Pneumonia—lobar and unde- fined.....	54.0	63.5	105.0	108.7	140.3	260.6
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	11.0	8.8	11.9	11.8	14.4	18.3
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	11.6	11.4	16.7	10.3	17.7	21.0
Under 2 years.....	5.0	5.6	8.7	3.1	5.2	7.1
2 years and over.....	6.6	5.8	8.0	7.2	12.4	13.9
Nephritis and Bright's disease.....	72.0	73.5	85.4	124.6	134.3	167.5
Total puerperal state.....	19.3	17.5	18.4	30.8	22.9	30.4
Puerperal septicemia.....	7.8	7.2	7.5	12.0	11.9	13.3
Puerperal albuminuria and con- vulsions.....	4.4	3.9	4.6	7.4	3.3	7.7
Other diseases of puerperal state.....	7.0	6.4	6.3	11.3	7.7	9.5
Total external causes ¹	63.5	96.6	104.1	83.3	98.3	113.2
Suicides.....	6.9	8.2	7.1	4.6	5.0	5.0
Homicides.....	3.1	4.0	2.5	21.5	30.7	21.9
Accidental and unspecified vio- ence ²	53.0	71.3	81.5	57.2	62.7	86.3
Accidental drowning.....	6.1	(³)	(³)	7.9	(³)	(³)
Automobile accidents.....	10.1	(³)	(³)	5.9	(³)	(³)
War deaths.....	.5	13.1	13.0	1.9	2.7
All other and ill-defined causes of death.....	236.9	231.5	249.3	377.3	334.5	391.2

¹Includes "war deaths."

²Excludes "war deaths."

³Data unavailable.

Death rates per 100,000 persons exposed. First half-years of 1918, 1919, and 1920 compared, by color, for principal causes of death.

[Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Industrial Department.]

Causes of death.	Death rates per 100,000 persons exposed.					
	White.			Colored.		
	Jan.-June, 1920.	Jan.-June, 1919.	Jan.-June, 1918.	Jan.-June, 1920.	Jan.-June, 1919.	Jan.-June, 1918.
All causes of death.....	1,082.3	1,208.2	1,101.6	1,697.4	1,799.4	1,947.3
Typhoid fever.....	4.2	4.4	6.3	7.8	11.0	16.7
Measles.....	14.3	4.9	14.6	5.4	3.1	9.7
Scarlet fever.....	7.9	4.8	5.7	.5	.4	1.0
Whooping cough.....	7.7	3.3	9.5	9.5	2.1	16.6
Diphtheria and croup.....	24.4	20.9	20.8	6.1	6.4	8.1
Influenza.....	93.2	177.0	15.9	145.4	217.3	42.8
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	132.6	150.1	174.9	310.6	329.6	422.6
Tuberculosis of the lungs.....	119.6	136.2	157.5	285.0	300.9	383.8
Tuberculous meningitis.....	6.5	6.9	9.7	6.6	10.6	10.7
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	6.6	7.0	7.6	19.0	18.0	28.1
Meningitis—total.....	6.7	8.3	10.6	9.2	6.2	10.6
Cerebrospinal meningitis.....	5.6	6.7	6.4	7.6	5.7	6.7
Cerebral hemorrhage—apoplexy.....	62.7	58.7	63.4	91.3	93.4	95.3
Organic diseases of the heart.....	126.6	121.0	136.6	187.3	184.4	221.6
Total respiratory diseases.....	181.4	201.4	173.9	290.4	312.9	368.4
Bronchitis.....	11.4	10.7	11.7	14.2	13.3	19.2
Broncho-pneumonia.....	53.2	53.6	40.0	61.5	64.3	61.8
Pneumonia—lobar and undefined.....	104.4	127.0	111.2	198.1	219.5	268.7
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	12.5	10.1	11.0	15.3	15.8	18.7
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	10.4	10.8	14.6	10.2	15.2	16.6
Under 2 years.....	4.5	5.0	6.8	3.5	3.8	5.2
2 years and over.....	5.9	5.8	7.8	6.7	11.5	11.3
Nephritis and Bright's disease.....	79.1	80.0	92.4	136.1	138.0	174.9
Total puerperal state.....	25.4	23.2	18.6	33.3	25.9	29.7
Puerperal septicemia.....	8.1	6.5	8.0	13.3	11.0	12.7
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions.....	4.6	4.8	4.5	6.9	4.5	7.5
Other diseases of puerperal state.....	12.7	11.8	6.1	13.1	10.3	9.5
Total external causes ¹	61.2	101.6	89.8	84.7	113.5	119.4
Suicides.....	6.0	7.8	7.1	4.0	4.9	5.5
Homicides.....	3.0	3.7	3.3	19.7	29.6	24.2
Accidental and unspecified violence ²	51.5	59.2	68.9	60.6	65.0	87.4
Accidental drowning.....	4.1	(³)	(²)	5.2	(³)	(³)
Automobile accidents.....	7.9	(³)	(³)	4.3	(³)	(³)
War deaths.....	.7	30.9	10.5	.4	14.0	2.2
All other and ill-defined causes of death.....	244.5	237.7	254.0	369.6	339.8	393.3

¹ Includes "war deaths."

² Excludes "war deaths."

³ Data unavailable.

The outstanding facts in these mortality records for the first half year of 1920 are as follows:

In the first half of 1920 there was a decline of 10.4 per cent in the death rate for the white policyholders from that shown for the first half of the year 1919, and of 5.7 per cent for the colored. During the first quarter of each of these years there was a high mortality from epidemic influenza. During the first few months of 1919 the country was by no means through with the epidemic which began in the fall of 1918, and the mortality was still far above the normal. During the first quarter of 1920 the second influenza epidemic was at its height and there was again a high death toll, but the death rate for this quarter was lower than that for the corresponding quarter of 1919.

Comparison of the second quarter of 1920 with that of the corresponding quarter of 1919 shows a decline in the mortality rate.

Analysis of the mortality due to the most important causes of death shows that the chief factors in the decline of the general rate were the marked declines in the death rates for tuberculosis, pneumonia, influenza, and accidents.

Despite the decline in the general rate and in the rates for the important diseases mentioned above, the picture is not an entirely favorable one. In the case of the principal infectious diseases of children—measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, and diphtheria—the mortality was higher in each instance during the first part of 1920 than it was during the first part of 1919. For measles the mortality was almost three times as high, and for whooping cough it was well over twice as high. The scarlet fever and diphtheria rates also show increases.

The rate for conditions incidental to the puerperal state shows a very decided increase for the first half of 1920 over that for the corresponding part of 1919. For the former period the rate for the white policyholders for these diseases increased 36.6 per cent over the rate for the first half of 1918. Closer analysis shows that increased mortality from puerperal septicemia was very largely responsible for the higher death rate for puerperal conditions.

Epidemic influenza, which raged in January and February, 1920, caused 6,536 deaths. These figures may be compared with 11,073 deaths from this disease during the first six months of 1919. There was a more pronounced drop in the death rate for 1920 for both white and colored policyholders.

Although influenza registered a very marked decline in the second quarter of 1920 as compared with the first quarter, it was nevertheless, responsible for the deaths of 1,139 policyholders. The rate for this disease during the second quarter was 29.4 per 100,000 white persons exposed, and 71.0 for colored.